

# Kinnaird and The Inches Residents' Association

On line meeting with Falkirk Councillors  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm

## Minutes

### Present:

Association: Stephen Clarke (chair), James Alexander (vice chair), Iain Henderson (treasurer), Colin Mather (secretary).

Falkirk Council: Councillors Gary Bouse, Laura Murtagh, Joan Coombes and Jim Flynn

### 1. Welcome

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Introductions

Members introduced each other as this is our first meeting.

### 3. Residents' Association registration

There has been some confusion over whether or not our Association can/should be officially registered with Falkirk Council. There had also been a suggestion that we should be registered with Link Housing as there is no council owned social housing in Kinnaird or The Inches but there is social housing linked to Link Housing. The advice from the councillors is that there is no need to be registered as we are a properly constituted group. There is a statutory distinction between the role and responsibilities of a community council and a residents' association. This will be discussed at the next meeting of the Association on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**Action:** Colin Mather

### 4. Development Plans

- (a) Falkirk Council
- (b) Residents' Association

The Association has created its own development plan and the first iteration has been produced. This will be subject to continual updating. As for a Falkirk Council development plan, Councillors said that the only council plan for the

area is for Kinnaird Primary School. They explained that although promises had been made by the developers that they would provide amenities, once the council sold the land to them, they do not have the authority to hold the developers to account if they don't deliver. The councillors suggested that we keep the conversations going with community choices in the development of our own plan. Apparently the original Cala/Persimmon developers' consortium still exists and Cllr Bouse agreed to provide us with the contact details.

**Action: Councillor Bouse**

## **5. NHS land development**

Iain Henderson has been in touch with a contact at NHS Forth Valley who has accepted that the Association has an interest in the area of land behind the retail units and the other one behind Kinnaird Primary School. There appears to be no other interest registered in respect of these areas of land at the moment. It was suggested that the discussions with the NHS in relation to the land behind Kinnaird Primary School, should include staff and the Parent Council from the School and that is the Association's intention.

## **6. Retail Units**

Concerns were raised about some retail units still lying empty. But Falkirk Council has no control over this land as it is owned by a private landlord. The Association will continue to investigate the possibility of whether Unit 6 could be turned into some form of community hub recognising that a) it is long term empty with no registered interest, and b) community needs are and will continue to change as we emerge from the pandemic. The Councillors were supportive of that investigation.

## **7. Factors**

**(a) Effectiveness**

**(b) Dog bins**

The Association has 1600 followers on its Facebook page and a recurring complaint is about the Factors. Unfortunately, all the comments on the Facebook page are negative. It is understood that there are 10 factors in the estates and there are processes that can be gone through by residents to hold them to account. There was confusion about who is responsible for the litter and dog waste bins.

The councillors explained that Falkirk Council is responsible for the bins situated on the roads which have been adopted by the Council but not the ones sited in play parks and other areas for which the factors are responsible. Councillor Murtagh will send the Association details of the roads in the estates which have been adopted by the Council.

**Action: Councillor Murtagh**

**8. Community Safety**

**(a) 20 mph zone**

A part time 20 mph area has been set up around the area of Kinnaird Primary School but no signs have been erected yet. Councillor Flynn said that he would find out the timescale for placing the signs which require electrical connection – NOTE: Councillor Flynn has since reported that the signs should be in place by the time the school returns after the Easter break.

**(b) Pedestrianisation – Hamilton Road**

It was established that the pedestrian zone in the Hamilton Road area is temporary for a maximum of 18 months. If it is to be made permanent, consultation with the community will require to be carried out. The purpose is to allow people to take exercise during the pandemic in a country area and be able to be socially distanced without worrying about too much traffic.

**(c) St Bernadette’s School – Moss Road/Bellsdyke Road**

Concerns about road safety issues were raised by the Association in relation to children from Kinnaird attending St Bernadette’s Primary School walking along the Moss Road and crossing the Bellsdyke Road at its widest point. Councillor Murtagh said that she would bring the matter up with the Planning Committee and will provide us with survey data.

**Action: Councillor Murtagh**

**9. Future Falkirk Council/Residents’ Association partnership**

It was agreed that we should meet about every two months, dates to be agreed nearer the time. It was suggested that the Association registers as a local group with Central Voluntary Services (CVS) which has a cross over with the Council and can advise on what funding we can apply for.

**Action: Association Committee**

**10. Communications/Community engagement**

There was discussion around the Association's current means of communicating with the community as well as with the community police officer, school etc., and it was highlighted that it would be important to liaise with the Parent Council at Kinnaird Primary School. It was suggested that perhaps the community police officer should be invited to the next meeting of the Association/Councillors.

**Action: Association Committee**

**11. AOCB**

(a) There was some discussion around the '20 minute community' concept which involves services being available within 20 minutes of people's homes. Falkirk Council is currently working up plans in regard to this.

(b) The Association asked the Councillors to examine whether street/solar style lighting would be possible in the path between The Inches and Kinnaird, adjacent to the M876 motorway. There is lighting either end of the path. Councillor Coombes said she would have a look at this.

**Action:Councillor Coombes**

(c) A resident had raised an issue with the Association about acoustic fencing being erected where gardens meet the M876 motorway. Councillor Coombes said she would look at this.

**Action:Councillor Coombes**

**12. Date and time of next meeting**

To be arranged for 2 months time.